

FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

45-0-11-0

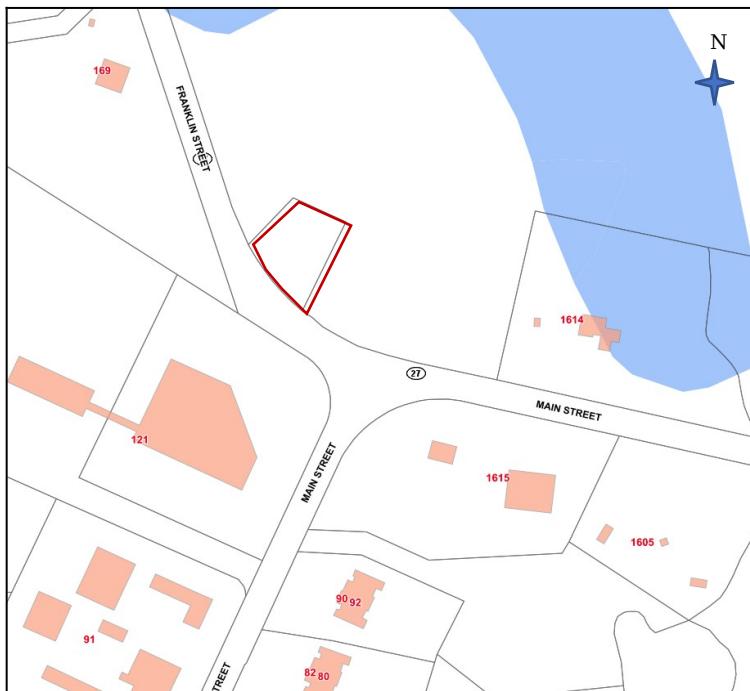
Hanover

HNS.802

Photograph



Locus Map



Town: Hanson

Place (neighborhood or village):

Address or Location: 0 Franklin Street

Name: Hobart Cemetery

Ownership: *Public* *Private*

Approximate Number of Stones: Twelve

Earliest Death Date: 1793

Latest Death Date: 1836

Landscape Architect: Not Applicable

Condition: Poor

Acreage: .39 Acres

Setting: Located on a hill at a curve in the road near the intersection of Main Street and Franklin Road, the cemetery is surrounded on three sides by a town-owned well site and is located in an area of otherwise commercial development near the East Bridgewater border.

Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation +
planning

Organization: Hanson Historical
Commission

Date (month / year): July 2018

INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Describe landscape features, gravestone materials, designs, motifs, and symbols that are either common Note any known carvers.

The Hobart Cemetery is located on the north side of Main Street (Route 27) on an overgrown lot surrounded on three sides by densely wooded, undeveloped land which is part of a town-owned well site. The cemetery is located on a hill above the road and has no direct access or pathways to the site. The rectangular burial ground is bounded by granite bollards and currently has plastic wire running between them. The wire has been installed in place of the original narrow wrought iron metal railings which had previously run between the granite posts on all four sides. All of the railings are now down, but a pile of the former railings is located near the presumed entrance to the cemetery.

The site appears to have been cleared within the last few years but is now beginning to be infilled with young trees and groundcover and a tree has fallen down across one corner. None of the stones are still standing but approximately twelve headstones, or pieces of headstones, are visible on the site at this time. The majority of the visible stones are slate, but a few examples of marble stones are also visible. Many of the stones are illegible but portions of several headstones can be clearly read including the grave of Druscilla Hobart, who died in 1793, Mrs. Jane Hobart, whose date was not visible, and Isaac and Lydia Hobart, who died sometime in the 1800s.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.

According to *Old Cemeteries of Southeastern Massachusetts*, the Hobart Cemetery holds twelve graves including Mary Foster, Ezra and Barzilia Rider, and Elishu and Ruth Sherman in addition to seven members of Thomas Hobart's family. Thomas Hobart (1725-1794) was born in Abington and married Jane Bayley in Abington in 1750. The couple are listed as living in Pembroke, from which Hanson would later be formed, in the 1790 U.S. Census but presumably moved to the area sometime between 1769, when their son Thomas was born in Abington, and 1776, when daughter Druscilla was born in Pembroke.

The first grave in the Hobart Cemetery belongs to Miss Druscilla Hobart, who died in 1793 at the age of 16. Her stone includes the inscription "Here lies a Corpse both cold and still, The first interred upon this hill, In her 18th year God saw it best, The far of Man, should her arrest."¹ Druscilla was joined the next year by her father, Thomas Hobart, and in 1797 by her mother, whose stone reads "Mrs. Jane Hobart." Thomas' two sons, Isaac and Thomas, and their wives are also buried here according to the *Old Cemeteries of Southeastern Massachusetts*. However, the USGenWeb article on the property states that there were three members of the Harding family buried here instead. According to this site, three Harding family members are buried in the Hobart Cemetery along with Joseph Harding and Alpheus and Hannah (Hobart) Harding. If so, these would be the last burials on the site ending with Hannah's burial in 1899 at the age of 75. As neither the additional Hobart stones nor the

¹ Old Cemeteries of Southeast Massachusetts, Page 86.

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Harding stones are currently visible or legible, it is not possible to confirm which family members are interred here at this time.

As with the other old burying grounds in Hanson, burials presumably ended here with the opening of Fern Hill Cemetery in the 1840s. It is unclear how long the cemetery remained in private hands. At some point during the twentieth century, the site was transferred to the Town of Hanson.

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Headstone of Druscilla Thomas (left) and Isaac and Lydia Hobart (right)

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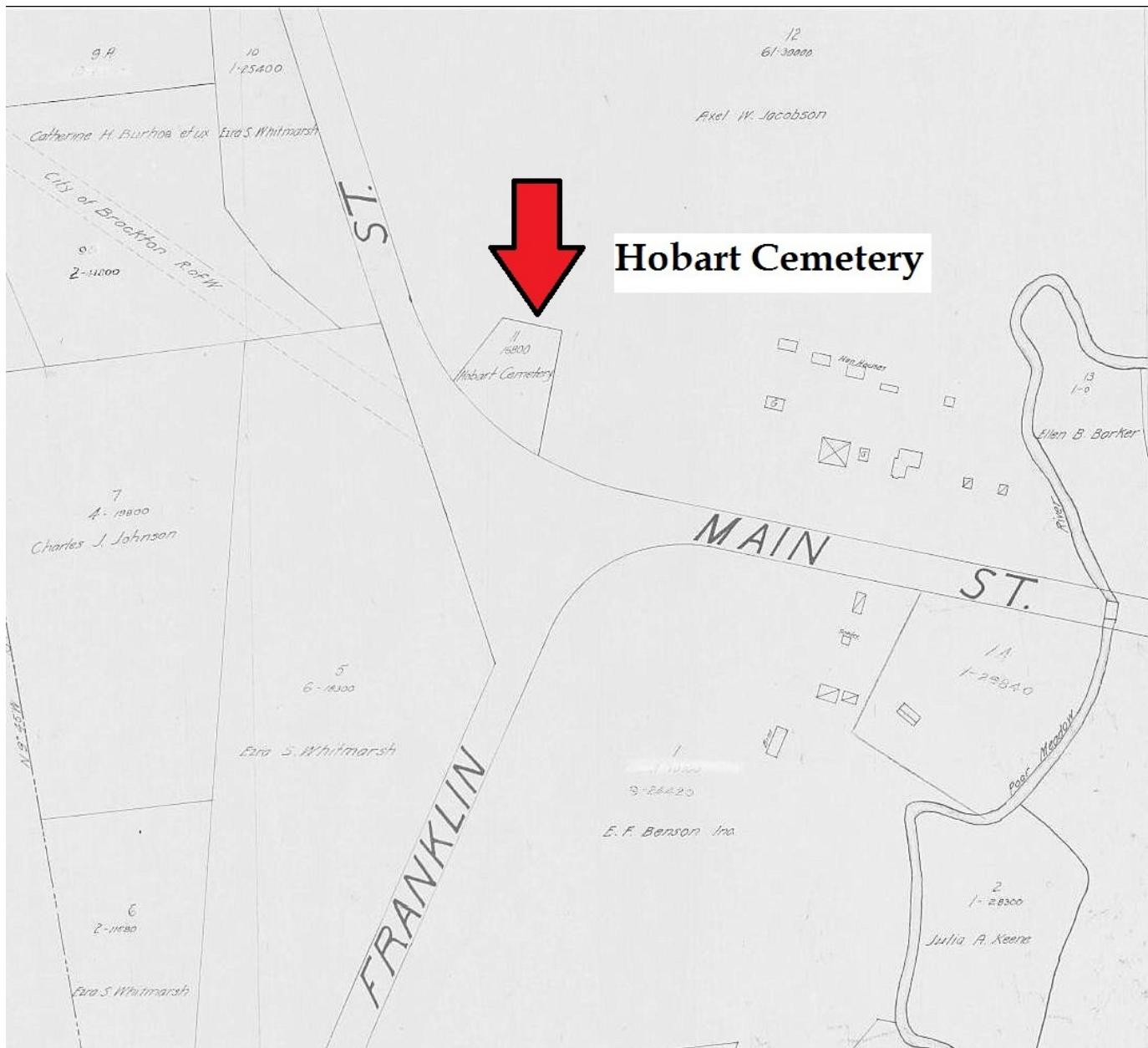
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Hobart Cemetery, 1934. Hanson Assessor's Map, Plan 45. Taken from
www.usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/cemeteries/stetson/

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Hobart Cemetery, circa 1959. Image from History of the Town of Hanson and taken from www.usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/cemeteries/howland